

CONNECTIONS FOR LIFE CONFERENCE TAKES PLACE AT CAL ENDOWMENT

By Karen Zarsadiaz-Ige, Public Information Officer II



The Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health (LACDMH) and the Mental Health Commission hosted the seventh annual Connections for Life through Employment and Education Conference at the California Endowment in downtown Los Angeles on Wednesday, April 24th. About 300 people attended the day-long conference that empowers and encourages consumers to find work or continue their education.

This year, LACDMH Director Marvin Southard, D.S.W., introduced County Supervisor Mike Antonovich to the conference. "Supervisor Antonovich realizes communities need to unite to help individuals and their families. He realizes we need to unite and work together to support families so they have better lives," said Dr. Southard. Supervisor Antonovich addressed the crowd and spoke about his commitment to help individuals diagnosed with mental illness. "We must safeguard their civil rights and also care for those who cannot care for themselves," stated the Supervisor.



Throughout the day, conference participants heard consumer success stories from peers, attended workshops and took home information from various resource booths on how to achieve their career and education goals. Makeover transformation videos were shown of Catherine Clay, James Griffin and Thomas Kofoed. They were the honored recipients of this year's makeovers, designed to help them dress for success.

Along with the consumer panels, workshops and raffles, special recognition and awards were given during the day, recognizing specific people for their outstanding work:



Distinguished Consumer – The Distinguished Consumer award winner was Sandra Ramos. LACDMH Chief Deputy Director, Robin Kay, Ph.D., presented her with the award for her achievements.

Consumer Artist – Ricardo Pulido was presented with a Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors scroll by Dr. Southard. Pulido was recognized for designing the conference logo.

